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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 002451

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/07/2014
TAGS: [EPET](#) [CASC](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: 30 CHEVRON EMPLOYEES, INCL. AMCIT, STILL HELD IN
ROBERT-KIRI

REF: LAGOS 2446

Classified By: Consul General Brian L. Browne for Reasons 1.4 (D & E)

Summary

1. (C) As of 0900 (local) December 7, thirty Chevron Texaco (CT) employees, including one Amcit, continued to be held at the Robert-kiri flow station near Port Harcourt, Rivers State. There are no reports of injuries, threats, or maltreatment of the detained, and CT has been in communication with them. While a few of them may have knives and other implements, the occupiers do not appear to be heavily armed. Informal talks to resolve the occupation are on-going and formal negotiations in Port Harcourt may begin as early as noon (local) today, with community members, CT and state GON officials participating. The Consul General and other Consulate officials have been in constant contact with Chevron and GON officials regarding the overall situation, and the status of the Amcit involved. End Summary.

30 CT Employees Still Held; No Reports of Injuries

2. (C) Chevron Texaco (CT) Nigeria's Environmental, Safety and Health Manager, Cheryl Robnett confirmed the 30 CT employees, including one Amcit, continue to be held at the Robert-kiri flow station (reftel). Robnett confirmed CT is able to communicate with those being held. While some of the townspeople may have knives or other homemade weapons, there are no reports that the occupiers are heavily armed. No one has reported the presence of firearms. Chevron confirms there are no reports of injuries and the employees are not being mis-treated.

Formal Negotiations Scheduled to Begin Today

3. (C) A Rivers State delegation went to the flowstation late yesterday evening to negotiate with community members. However, the community members refused to meet with the GON delegation last night. According to Chevron, the community members talked via telephone to them. The sides reached agreement to meet Chevron perhaps as early as noon today in Port Harcourt. Rivers State officials will be included in these formal discussions. The delegation will be led by Tonye Harry, Deputy Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, who is from the community involved in the occupation. According to Chevron, the occupiers also agreed to begin to leave the facility, but we have no verification that this exit has begun.

AMCIT Assistance

4. (C) The Consul General has been in constant contact with Chevron officials regarding the status of the Amcit being held at Robert-kiri, and has discussed this matter with the Rivers State Deputy Governor. (Note: Governor Odili is currently in Italy. End note.) Similarly, other sections of the Consulate, including the DATT and RSO, have been in regular communication with their Nigerian and Chevron counterparts. The Consul General will also travel to Port Harcourt early on December 8 to meet with the Deputy Governor and oil company officials about this situation and other related issues.

Supply Shortage is Concern; Re-Supply Plans in Process

5. (C) Chevron ESH Manager Robnett told energy officer, CT's major worry during a community invasion is a shortage of food and other supplies, since these disputes are usually

resolved without injuries. Normally, CT facilities are stocked with a couple of weeks of supplies for the small number of employees working at the facility. With the addition of occupiers, supplies often run out quickly. Robnett said should the occupiers remain throughout today, CT will begin talking with them about re-supplying the facility.

BROWNE